Perennial crops are not yet covered under the scheme because of their multi-picking nature of yield and non-availability of adequate past yield data.

Wastage of fruits and vegetables

1191. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large quantity of vegetables and fruits are being wasted due to lack of storage and processing facilities;

(b) if so, how much losses were incurred during the last two years; and

(c) the possible steps Governments are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The wastage of vegetables and fruits due to post harvest losses, has been estimated as 25% to 30%, valued at Rs. 20,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore annually reported in the fifth and final report of the National Commission of Farmers.

(c) For horticulture crops, the Government has launched two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States and Sikkim" since 2001-02 which was extended to the Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 2003-04 and "National Horticulture Mission" during 2005-06 for the remaining States. These schemes provide assistance for creating post-harvest infrastructure, including cold storage facilities as back-ended subsidy @ 33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per unit for hilly and tribal areas and @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per unit for other States. National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses horticulture produce through the schemes "Captial Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce" having the same norms and "Development of commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management" providing back ended subsidy @ 20% of the total

project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for North-Eastern/ Hilly/Tribal Areas States and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for other States. Besides Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MFPI) is implementing Plan Schemes for encouraging development of food processing industries including horticulture crops. The schemes includes (a) Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing for which assistance is given in the form of grant, subject to 25% of the plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.30% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas, and (b) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Park for which assistance is given in the form of grant subject 25% of the project cost in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores for provision of common facilities like cold storage, food testing and analysis laboratory, effluent treatment plant, processing facilities, power, water supply, etc.

Availability of vegetables

1192. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per-capita availability of vegetables in the country is just 190 grams per day against the required amount of 290 grams;

(b) the reasons for such a low availability of vegetables to the people in the country;

(c) the plans Government have drawn to increase the area covered under vegetable cultivation from the present 6.76 million hectares; and

(d) how Government are helping the farmers to upgrade their technical knowledge to get high yielding varieties of vegetables and innovative package practices of vegetables so that they remain fresh for a longer period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to higher perishability of vegetables produce is causing more loss while transporting/handling the produce at distance places. The production of vegetable Scrops is also less as compared to demand.